

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).
2. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ 18, wherein the coupons (11, 12) are simultaneously supplied coupons (11, 12) and are transported at initially different speeds such that a spacing is produced in the conveying transporting direction between the simultaneously arriving coupons (11, 12), and that wherein the two coupons (11, 12) are further transported further one after the other—in said succession at a said distance from one another.
3. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the in particular~~ 18, wherein the coupons (11, 12) are horizontally oriented coupons (11, 12), and, during transportation by the coupon conveyor (17), are turned through 90° and/or set in an upright position and, thereafter, are deflected in respect to the movement transporting direction, in particular through (approximately) 90°, through an angle.
4. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that, wherein,~~ following deflection in the a region of the coupon conveyor (17), the coupons (11, 12) are moved back, by renewed turning, into a horizontal alignment, in particular alignment for transfer to the coupon magazine or to a the feeder (21).

5. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that, 18, wherein, at the an end of the coupon conveyor, the coupons (11, 12) are transferred directly to a following said feeder (21) (21), or, by transverse displacement in one direction and the other, displacement, are transferred to two parallel feeders (21) or shafts (42, 43) of the coupon magazine (22).~~

6. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that 18, wherein the coupons (11, 12) are finished during transport, in particular stabilized stabilized, with respect to any folding, specifically folding thereof, by pressure-exerting elements which act upon folding edges of the coupons (11, 12) as they are transported, preferably in the region of folding edges. during the transporting of the coupons.~~

7. (canceled).

8. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that 20, further comprising receiving belts (23, 24), wherein the coupons (11, 12) (11, 12), arriving in pairs can be pairs, are transported, in the a first instance, along two paths in the region of the coupon conveyor (17), in particular by means of (17) by said receiving belts (23, 24) which are driven at different conveying speeds, speeds such that the originally adjacent coupons (11, 12) are offset in the conveying transporting direction during transportation.~~

9. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that it is possible to supply 20, wherein said supplying means supplies the coupons (11, 12), which are initially conveyed one beside the other in the region of the coupon conveyor (17), in particular (17) by receiving belts (23, 24), in the region of a converging member, namely in the~~

(23, 24) in a region of an intermediate conveyor (27) with converging conveying paths for the coupons (11, 12), to a further connection conveyor (28) which is common to both coupons (11, 12), namely to a connection conveyor (28).

10. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 7, **characterized** ~~in that the~~ wherein horizontally ~~arriving delivered~~ coupons (11, 12), during the transportation by the coupon conveyor (17), ~~can be~~ are rotated through 90° and/or turned into an upright position – as seen in the transporting direction – ~~in particular by twisted conveying belts, namely by~~ receiving means ~~(23, 24), of which the (23, 24) comprising~~ deflecting rollers (25, 26) are arranged with having axes of rotation which are offset ~~through by~~ 90°.

11. (original): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 10, **characterized in that**, further comprising a deflecting conveyor (32), and wherein, once they the coupons (11, 12) have been set in an upright position, the coupons (11, 12) can be deflected are deflected, in respect to the conveying direction, in particular transporting direction, through 90° in a direction transverse to the incoming conveying transporting direction, by a said deflecting conveyor (32) forming which is a part of the coupon conveyor (17).

12. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 10, **characterized** ~~in that, wherein,~~ before being transferred to the feeder (21) or to the coupon magazine (22), the coupons (11, 12) ~~can be~~ are turned again through 90°, ~~preferably 90°~~ into a horizontal plane.

13. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 7, **characterized** ~~in that~~ 20, wherein the coupon magazine (22), ~~which (22) is arranged at the end of the coupon conveyor (17), and has two laterally offset shafts (42, 43) one for in each case one coupon stack~~

~~(44), of two stacks (44) of the coupons, and in that wherein~~ a coupon distributor (45) is arranged between the two shafts (42, 43), directly following the coupon conveyor (17), said distributor supplying the incoming coupons (11, 12) to the shafts (42, 43), by a transverse conveying movement, in accordance with the degree of filling of said shafts.

14. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 13, **characterized in that** the coupon distributor (45) comprises ~~preferably two~~ conveying rollers (46, 47) which are arranged one above the ~~other~~ other, and which supply the coupons (11, 12) to one ~~shaft of said two shafts~~ (42, 43) or the other by rotary movement, the conveying rollers (46, 47) having circumferential bores (49) for fixing the coupons (11, 12) on the circumference via bores (49) ~~(11, 12)~~.

15. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 7, 20, **characterized in that** the feeder (21), ~~which (21)~~ directly follows the coupon conveyor, and comprises a feeder belt (52) which is angled a number of times over deflecting rollers to form a ~~(top)~~ top receiving leg (58), a transversely directed intermediate leg (59) and a transfer leg (60) which, again, is directed transversely, the latter leg being oriented at an acute angle to the conveying path (19) in the ~~conveying~~ transporting direction of the packs (10).

16. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to Claim 15, **characterized in that** the coupons (11, 12) butt against a conveying strand of the feeder belt (52) and are held in abutment against the feeder belt (52) by a fixed guide (61) which follows ~~the a~~ a contour of the feeder (21), ~~it being possible for the coupons (11, 12) to be being~~ transported with precise relative positioning by carry-along elements (53).

17. (currently amended): ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ 20, further comprising pressure-exerting elements, for stabilizing foldings in the coupons (11, 12) ~~(11, 12)~~, arranged in the ~~transport-conveying~~ path of the coupons (11, 12), in particular ~~pressure discs (67, 68) at either side of a belt conveyor, in particularly in the region of deflection wheels (69, 70) of a transfer conveyor (54) of the coupons~~ (11, 12).

18. (new): A method for the handling of the transport of blanks such as printing carriers or coupons (11, 12) as an insert to a pack (10), comprising the steps of:

- a) severing a double coupon (15) to form two coupons lying adjacent to one another,
- b) first transporting, by a coupon conveyor (17) in a region of a packaging machine, in a longitudinal direction the severed coupons (11, 12) lying adjacent to one another in pairs, and, during said first transporting, separating the coupons in such a manner that the coupons (11, 12) are further transported in succession and at a distance from one another,
- c) delivering the coupons (11, 12) to a feeder (20, 21) for placing the coupons (11, 12) on packs (10), or to a coupon magazine (22) for receiving a supply of coupons (11, 12).

19. (new): The method according to claim 3, wherein said angle is approximately 90°.

20. (new): An apparatus for the handling and the transport of blanks, such as printing carriers or coupons (11, 12), as an insert to a pack (10), wherein packs (10) are transported at a distance from one another in a transporting direction along a conveying path (19) in a region of a packaging machine which applies an outer wrapper to each pack (10), said apparatus comprising:

- a) means for supplying the coupons (11, 12), lying adjacent to one another in pairs, to a coupon conveyor (17), and

b) in a region of the coupon conveyor (17), means for altering the relative positions of the coupons (11, 12) by the use of different speeds of said conveyor such that the coupons (11, 12) are transported in succession and at a distance from one another.

c) said coupon conveyor (17) delivering the coupons (11, 12) in succession to a feeder (20, 21) for placing the coupons (11, 12) on a top side (13) of the packs (10), or to a coupon magazine (22) for forming a supply of coupons (11, 12).

21. (new): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said pressure-exerting elements comprise pressure discs (67, 68) at either side of a belt conveyor in a region of deflection wheels (69, 70) of a transfer conveyor (54) of the coupons (11, 12).